(c) Total number of heart patients registered and awaiting for open heart surgery up to June, 2003 is 2326.

SAIL profits

3310. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has earned profit during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the figure of profit for this year;

(c) the loss suffered during the year 2001 -2002; and

(d) other details in this regard?

THE 'MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) incurred a net loss of Rs. 1707 crores in the year 2001 -2002. The gross margin and cash loss during 2001-2002 was Rs. 1011 crores and Rs. 551 crores respectively. The net loss was reduced to Rs. 316 crores (before tax) during 2002-2003, registering an improvement of 82% over the previous year (2001-02).

Setting up of synthetic rutile plant in Kerala

3311. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation proposes to set up Synthetic Rutiie Plant at Chavara in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the project along-with the details of the estimated investment;

(c) the details of the steps taken so far for setting up the plant; and

(d) the expected time by which this plant will become operational?